



DUTCHESS COUNTY INTERFAITH COUNCIL, INC.

Dutchess County Interfaith Council, Inc., 9 Vassar Street, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601 | office@dutchesscountyinterfaith.org | T: 845.471.7333 Volume 2 | Issue 5 | Nov-Dec 2019

IN THE NEWS

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GALA AWARD DINNER: MOMENTS



We express our deepest gratitude to everyone who attended and supported DCIC's 2nd Annual Gala Award Dinner on Thursday, November 7. We are thankful to everyone who joined us to learn more about DCIC, to spend time in friendship and fellowship, to renew our bonds and create new friendships, and to honor the Reverend Gail Burger for her outstanding selfless service to this community with the Rabbi Erwin Zimet Humanitarian Award.

In her acceptance speech, Reverend Burger said, "Here we are together tonight. What a CO-incidence to see you here! But, is it really a coincidence that we are here together tonight? Not really. It is the result of a CO-ordinated effort to keep DCIC keeping on into the 2020s and beyond. It is the result of an intentional effort to lift the spirits and deepen the friendships among and between this organization's loyal friends - in the midst of difficult times in our society.

Thanks to DCIC, I have met almost all of you before at one interfaith event or another. Or perhaps we were fortunate to have had a mutual connection with Rabbi Erwin Zimet who is being remembered here tonight. Whatever the coincidence of our sharing this event might be, our awareness of one another is sharpened – we are adding a brick to the bridge of local community. Such building of bridges is dear to my heart, and I thank you for coming here tonight to weave the thread of community."

(Thank you to Paula and Azzy Reckess of PAZ Healthcare Management for being the honorary co-chairs of the 2019 DCIC Gala Award Dinner.)

DCIC GALA AWARD DINNER: JUDGE ALBERT ROSENBLATT



Retired NYS Supreme Court Judge Albert Rosenblatt delivered the keynote address at DCIC's 2nd Annual Gala Award Dinner. Here is an excerpt from his speech.

"I've not done a tally but throughout my life I have probably regarded the glass more as half full than half empty. But it is increasingly hard to ignore signs of growing division: people marching and saying things out loud that they would have been too ashamed to say earlier, mistrust, hate crimes, white supremacy, increased racism, demonizing

immigrants, red vs blue; more talk of closed walls and less of open arms. And so I find it an inspiration to be here and to take in a welcome breath of air. The Interfaith Council exists to carry out a mission embodying the very opposite of polarization.

As a world leader for the last century or so, our nation has been on display, maybe not perfect, but doing a good job of it, allowing us to feel good about ourselves, and at least trying to promote ideas of what we have called "the shining city on a hill," the values of the Marshall Plan, and the words under the Statue of Liberty, "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free."

As an American, any change in that stance, and in the perceptions it brings, makes me uncomfortable. That is why being with you tonight is a privilege. Where there is disharmony you represent unity, where there is exclusion you represent acceptance, where there is religious intolerance you, by your mission statement and your very existence, bring a sense of benevolence and good will to our community - an example to others.

Today's polarization has what seems like new ingredients. I sense a quality in the divisiveness that carries disproportionate levels of hatred, along with flashes of cruelty that is discomfiting. It is no answer to say that we are sick and tired of PC - political correctness - and that it is good and wholesome to let it out and tell it like it is."



JUDGE ROSENBLATT (CONTINUED)

"Hatred and acts of violence against groups of innocent people is not what I would call a breach of PC. I call it flat out racism, meanness, and extremism not compatible with my vision of America.

As a judge, I would draw a distinction between what is lawful and what is moral, in the realm of free speech. In this state and nation, someone can stand on a public soapbox (or go on line) and pour out all sorts of invective, and under the First Amendment we will protect even the vilest outbursts. Remember how we let the Nazis march in Skokie, Illinois. We would allow it today and we have. Recall the marches in Charlottesville. We have tolerated and still tolerate the most despicable utterances.

That protection is part of what makes us Americans. But we do not have to like it or to give it an iota of credibility. Religious hatred and demonizing groups is unacceptable morally and culturally. It is no answer to say that there are good people and bad people on both sides of the divide. I reject that. We can have disputes around the edges but we were raised to project a common decency - which this group epitomizes - based on high theological values. We know the difference, in absolute truths, between right and wrong. By uniting under one canopy you stare history in the eye and say, "There is no room in our belief system for the KKK or the Nazis or the neo-Nazis by whatever name they choose to call themselves."

This Interfaith Council is founded on enduring teachings of multiple faiths. You can put these teachings into a sort strainer and the product that emerges is the Golden Rule.

In the Koran: *"Be just as you would love to have justice."*

In the teachings of Jesus of Nazareth in Matthew 7:12 and Luke 6:31: *"Do unto others as you would have them do unto you"*.

In the words of Rabbi Hillel: *"What is hateful to you, do not do to your fellow: this is the whole Torah; the rest is the explanation; go and learn."*

DCIC GALA AWARD DINNER: MOMENTS



FAIR TRADE AND HANDMADE BAZAAR



A Spiritual and Ethical Shopping Experience

**Saturday, December 7
11 am. to 5 pm.**

**Sunday, December 8
11 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

**The Hellenic Center
(54 Park Avenue, Poughkeepsie)**

Volunteers needed!

Like many faith communities, DCIC's members believe in the connection between shopping choices in the United States, and poverty and environmental damage throughout the world.

In response, the Fair Trade and Handmade Bazaar offers Dutchess County shoppers a wide array of high-quality, unique, and multicultural fair trade items just in time for the holiday gift giving season. These gifts are reasonably-priced and unique options that allow the buyer to feel a sense of alignment with the principles of the holidays. Shoppers can browse through fair trade coffee and chocolate, fine jewelry, woven baskets, pottery, and more. There are imports from Uganda, Thailand, the Amazon rain forest, and Haiti.

Homemade treats made with ethically-sourced ingredients will be available for enjoyment at the Bazaar. Local artisans and artists, such as artist Larry Decker and pottery maker Lynne James, will be present, as well as local nonprofits such as the Poughkeepsie Farm Project and the Hudson Valley Folk Guild.

To volunteer and for more information, please contact Pat Lamanna at (845) 309-3853 or patla42@gmail.com

(This event is being sponsored by DCIC.)

DCIC 44TH ANNUAL MUSIC FESTIVAL: SING UNTO THE LORD

Thank you to everyone who attended and supported DCIC's 44th Annual Interfaith Music Festival on Sunday, November 3rd at St. Paul's Episcopal Church. Over 200 people gathered to enjoy a wonderful sampling of music and performances from many religious traditions, and honor Maris Kristapsons and Amy and Andy Huber for their selfless contributions to the Interfaith Music Festival over many years. A delightful reception followed the concert. The Music Festival Committee was chaired by Carol Becker.



MORE MUSIC FESTIVAL



DCIC ANNUAL THANKSGIVING SERVICE



Thank you to everyone who attended and supported DCIC's Annual Thanksgiving Service on Sunday, November 24 at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Spackenkill, Poughkeepsie. DCIC Thanksgiving Committee Member, Muriel Wieser Horowitz, offered a Land Acknowledgement in honor of the Indigenous Peoples as the traditional stewards of this land and the enduring relationship that exists between Indigenous Peoples and their traditional territories.

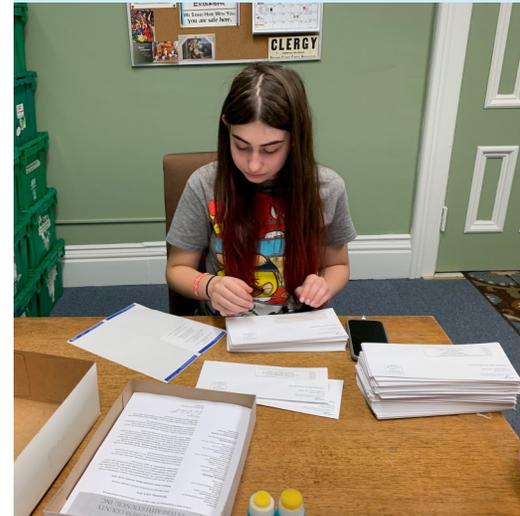
"As we begin our celebration today, Dutchess County Interfaith Council wishes to acknowledge that we are gathered on the land of the Mohican people. They originally called themselves Maheconneok - people of the waters that are never still. Through many removals and displacements, their descendents mainly live in or near their reservation in Wisconsin. I ask you to join me in acknowledging the community, their elders both past and present as well as future generations. May we dedicate ourselves to remembering their contributions to preserving this land and be inspired to continue to care for this ancestral land of the Mohican people."

Representatives from different religions offered prayers and messages in gratitude for the many blessings received. Chris Canale of Hudson River Housing shared reflections on homelessness. The Thanksgiving Service Committee was chaired by Mary Ann Bahnsen.



DCIC wishes you and your families a happy Thanksgiving and a warm and blessed holiday season!

VOLUNTEER AT DCIC



Are you a student interested in doing an internship or someone seeking opportunities to perform community service? Are you retired and interested in contributing your skills and experience to a worthy cause? Perhaps you're just looking for a way to give back to your community.

DCIC has a wide range of programs and activities throughout the year. Volunteers are invited to attend, support, plan and even lead our programs, events and related committees.

Here are just a few of the areas in which we can use your help:

- Filing
- Database management
- Bulk mailings
- Creative writing
- Editing
- Events including CROP Hunger Walk, Music Festival, Gala Award Dinner, etc.
- Telephone calls
- Photography
- Graphic design

In the photo above, 13-year old DCIC volunteer, Juliette Lasser, helps us to prepare a bulk mailing to congregations.

Click [here](#) to learn more and sign up to be a volunteer. Or email us at office@dutchesscountyinterfaith.org

UPCOMING EVENTS—PLEASE SAVE THE DATES!

Note: Please visit the DCIC website (www.dutchesscountyinterfaith.org) and our [Facebook page](#) for updates on these events and more.

Date	Event	Time and Venue	More Information
Thursday, November 28	Thanksgiving Service	10:30 a.m. First Church of Christ, Scientist (138 Hooker Avenue, Poughkeepsie)	
Wednesday, December 4	DCIC Story Circle	7:00 p.m. Kagy Thubten Choling Buddhist Monastery (245 Sheafe Road, Wappingers Falls)	
Saturday, December 7 and Sunday, December 8	DCIC Fair Trade and Handmade Bazaar	Sat., 11:00 - 5:00 p.m. and Sun., 11:00 - 3:00 p.m. The Hellenic Center (54 Park Avenue, Poughkeepsie)	An international marketplace with distinctive crafts, gifts, jewelry, food, live music and more! Volunteers needed! Contact Pat Lamanna at (845) 309-3853 or patla42@gmail.com
Thursday, December 12	Advent Prayer Service	7:00-9:00 p.m. St. Martin de Porres Church (118 Cedar Valley Road, Poughkeepsie)	The St. Martin de Porres Ecumenical Committee and the Adult Choir invite you to join together in prayer during the season of Advent. The theme for this year's ecumenical prayer service is "They showed us unusual kindness" (Acts 28:2). It will use familiar Taizé and other contemporary hymns. All in the parish community and beyond are invited to come together in prayer during the Church's season of hope and expectation. Refreshments and conversation will follow in the Nativity Center.
Sunday, February 2	DCIC Annual Peace Concert: An Afternoon of Stories	2:00-4:00 p.m. Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (67 South Randolph Avenue, Poughkeepsie)	

EVENTS

MORE UPCOMING EVENTS—PLEASE SAVE THE DATES!

Date	Event	Time and Venue	More Information
Sunday, February 16	Presentation on Immigration by Valerie Carlisle	Time TBD Fellowship Hall of First Congregational United Church of Christ (269 Mill Street, Poughkeepsie)	
Thursday, March 5	DCIC 3rd Annual Sermon Slam	7:00 p.m. St John's Evangelical Lutheran (55 Wilbur Road, Poughkeepsie)	
Thursday, March 12	DCIC Annual Membership Meeting		More details to follow.
Wednesday, April 1	DCIC Story Circle Theme: "Holy Fool"	Time TBD Bayit at Vassar College (51 Collegeview Avenue, Poughkeepsie)	

FRIENDS OF SENIORS NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

Friends of Seniors is a volunteer-based program that provides FREE basic support services to the Dutchess County older adult community, age 60 and older. For instance, they arrange transportation to medical appointments, labs, physical therapy, same-day-surgery. They provide grocery shopping to those with no family living in the area as well as visiting services, telephone reassurance and respite for primary caregivers.

Friends of Seniors pays volunteers \$0.30/mile and has an umbrella insurance coverage. Your time is your own; no pressure.

Volunteer work is flexible and up to the volunteer. Because of the nature of today's busy world, people who want to volunteer cannot always work within volunteer organizations' time frames. Your volunteer work is based on your availability. When FoS calls you to assist a senior, if you're available, then arrangements will be made. Perhaps you have time only to take someone to their medical appointment, but no time to take that person back home. Friends of Seniors will make arrangements with another volunteer to take the senior back home. While you're out taking care of your own errands, you can pick up a senior, take him/her to the medical appointment and continue on with your day. Or while you're grocery shopping for your own family, you can shop for someone who might not be able to get out to shop for himself or herself. Or you can drop off the client at his/her appointment, run your own errands and then go back to pick up the client to take him/her home.

More information: call 845-485-1277 or email friendsofseniors@hotmail.com

EXCLUSIVE OFFERS

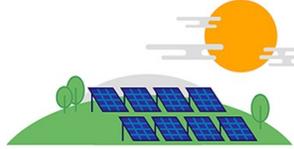


community solar with **nexamp**

Members of the Dutchess County Interfaith Council now have the opportunity to **support renewable energy** generation in New York State by subscribing to a Nexamp community solar farm

What is Community Solar?

subscribe to a local Nexamp solar farm



add clean, solar energy to your utility grid



receive credits from your utility and save on your annual electricity cost



solar.nexamp.com/DCIC

Contact Yushi at 201-314-3799 and let him know the council sent you.

- No cost to join or installation of equipment
- No long-term commitment
- Guaranteed savings and no cancellation fee

DCIC OIL PURCHASE GROUP



Love Efron Oil Company, in cooperation with the DCIC, offers a great deal on heating oil and special propane pricing to houses of worship and non-profit organizations in Dutchess County.

Clergy residences are eligible to be included in the DCIC OPG provided billing is to the house of worship. Membership in the OPG is free to religious congregations that have contributed \$100 or more this year to the DCIC.

[Click here](#) for more information and to enroll in the DCIC OPG.

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